

## Overproduction

By Samuel Rosinger

Our government is spending money running into billions, in an effort to eliminate what it considers the root of our economic ailment, namely, overproduction. It limits by regulatory laws the production of basic commodities to the actual requirements of the public. Such a restriction prevents the gutting of the market with its attendant evil, the demoralization of prices.

I hate regulations by the fiat of authority. In a just and orderly society the natural laws of supply and demand ought to maintain a happy balance between production and consumption. Yet, if, owing to the undisposable surplus, restriction has to be resorted to, why confine the limitation to commodities? Why not extend it to man, especially as it pertains to his occupation?

I know that some professions are so densely overcrowded that, at best, only a fraction of those who train for them can hope to succeed. A considerable number who spend their time and money on an expensive and extensive college education, are doomed to failure, and will not be able to earn even a modest livelihood as a fruit of their labors. According to statistics, our public and commercial schools are training some eight million students as bookkeepers and office workers, when positions cannot be had for more than a small fraction of this sum. The same is true of lawyers, doctors, teachers and all kinds of white-collar workers.

These days when public money is being lavishly spent on so many wild schemes and exotic projects, the modest outlay required for a thorough survey of opportunities in the various vocational fields, would represent a most judicious investment. And on the basis of such a survey, let an educational campaign be instituted for the purpose of diverting our youth to the less crowded vocations in which they may reasonably hope to earn a decent livelihood.

In June our colleges will again add a large army of young men and women to the vast host of those who seek employment. It is a foregone conclusion that thousands upon thousands, not only of the mediocre but even of the exceptional ones, are fated to be without positions. I do not know of a more grievous disappointment in the life of a young man or woman than the painful realization that school does not prepare for life, in the most literal sense of the word, and that all their educational effort and exertion has led them into the blind alley of unemployment.

Let us not train a class of intellectual paupers. We are an over-schooled and an under-educated generation. Let the government raise the standard of our schools, close up the second-raters and diploma mills, and by a wise campaign of enlightenment eliminate overproduction in the field of education.

# ROTARYGRAMS OF BEAUMONT



## WEEKLY BULLETIN

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### *Slants at the Meeting*

This is one time we would like to change the caption of this "effusion" to SLAPS AT THE MEMBERS and write accordingly, for there wasn't enough zest in the meeting last week to encourage the old pen to become facile or foolish.

Of course, Geo. Murphy always speaks well, intelligently and clearly and has his programs in hand, but that one lacked the stuff to put the kick and fire in it. In other words it was prosaic, like you feel sometimes when part of your anatomy is dragging on the ground.

We felt about as disconsolate, we imagine, as Prof. Wirt did over his failure to establish a communistic revolution brewing in the brain trust. The gullibility of the old professor would make him a fit subject to listen to some of our clubs' most potent liars.

The only fear we have for the good professor is that Overseer Voliva, of Zion City, might unload some of those satanic prophesies on him before a Rotarian could get there.

Speaking of brother Voliva, if the gentleman's predictions come true that Satan is going to grab off this old cosmos speck in September Fred Jones says we might as well take a peep at Detroit during the National Convention so that we would be able to tell the inhabitants down in Hades where Lizzie's nuts and bolts come from.

Check.

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—R—

Below is a list of the 20 nominees for Directors for the Club for 1934-1935, and out of this number 10 will be selected for your directors. Please make mental note of this list and be prepared to select 10 Wednesday, April 25th, 1934.

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TOM WALKER  
CHAS. WEINBAUM

—R—

## Science Not The Villian

It is unfair to heap blame for industrial obsolescence and unemployment upon the machine. Modern Man demands it and the easier living it brings, else he would return to the pre-mechanized system wherein men and women toiled from dawn to dusk in a gamble against insufficiency of food and clothing and shelter. Thus, if the machine is not at fault, logic points to Man, himself, with his lagging accommodation to change, as the real villian in the world-wide tragedy of depression.—From the **Rotarian Magazine**.

## Inventors Don't Invent Enough, Says Kettering

Instead of putting the brakes on science so that civilization can "catch up", Charles F. Kettering, General Motors research engineer, believes that what the world needs today is more, not fewer, inventions. Interviewed in the current *Rotarian Magazine* by Malcolm W. Bingay, editorial director of the "Detroit Free Press," he deplores the fact that "there has not been an invention of any importance in the past ten years."

"Inventors of the world," he goes on, "should be chided for not doing enough inventing instead of doing too much."

Scouting the suggestion for "a moratorium on mankind's inventive genius," he declares it "would have to come in the form of a law against thinking. And this would defeat the very object of those who seek a way out of our present difficulties by such a move.

"We are not at the end, but at the beginning. We have but reached the shores of a great unexplored continent. We cannot, however, turn back, for there is no other direction to go but forward. It is a man's destiny to ponder on the riddle of existence and as a by-product of that wonderment he is creating a new life on this earth.

"Now the engineers and scientists, instead of being stopped in their work, should be encouraged to continue at fever heat to balance matters—and they will—by the invention of labor-creating systems. That is the world's greatest need now, and necessity is the mother of invention.

"It is easy," Mr. Kettering continues, "for the economist and the politician to blame the inventor and the research engineer. How frequently the thoughtless members of the family blame the doctor when someone is sick! Shall we abolish the doctor because someone takes an over-dose of medicine? As a matter of plain, cold fact the scientist, the technologist, does nothing but reveal and make usable the natural laws.

"The research men created the new wealth of the world and its prosperity. It is not their fault that it was abused. Those who did abuse these new found riches have by now, it is hoped, learn their lessons. The joy ride is over. We are back to earth.

"And it is up to the researcher to bring us out of the wreckage. Therefore do not hamstring him. Assist him, do not blame him. Research is not Man's despair but his greatest hope."—From the **Rotarian Magazine**.